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1991/11/04

One Hundred Second Congress
Congress of the United States
 Committee on Foreign Affairs
 House of Representatives
 Washington, DC 20515

November 4, 1991

RELEASED

The Honorable James A. Baker
 Secretary of State
 Department of State
 Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Secretary Baker:

We are writing concerning your upcoming visit to China. Given that the Chinese government will wish to reap propaganda benefits from your visit, we hope you will ensure that the Beijing government will make progress on several key issues before you go to China.

We urge you to continue to press the Chinese to adhere to the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) and to sign the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and comply with the letter and spirit of those two regimes. Because it is reported that Beijing exports ballistic missiles and nuclear weapons technology to countries in the Middle East and South Asia, it is vital that the U.S. obtain a firm commitment from China that it will adhere to the MTCR and become a party to the treaty.

In addition, we would like to see the issue of biological weapons discussed with the Beijing government. Recent press reports have suggested that China may possess biological warfare agents in clear violation of the 1972 Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention (BWC) to which China became a party in 1984. China should be pressed in the strongest possible terms to comply with all the provisions of the BWC.

Since the crushing of the democracy movement in 1989, the human rights situation in China has deteriorated. What few freedoms of expression existed before in that country are now severely curtailed. Hundreds, and possibly thousands, of people remain incarcerated for merely expressing their views, many times without benefit of charge or judicial proceeding. China must be persuaded to make tangible improvements in its human rights record. We suggest that you press the Chinese to allow the International Committee of the Red Cross access to those incarcerated for political crimes in order to ensure that the treatment of Chinese prisoners meets international standards. An accounting should be provided by the Chinese authorities of all those incarcerated for the peaceful expression of their views and we should continue to press for the release of all political prisoners.

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 Secretary of the Committee

We also suggest that you urge the Chinese authorities to detail publicly how they will enforce the October 10 declaration banning the export of products made by prison labor.

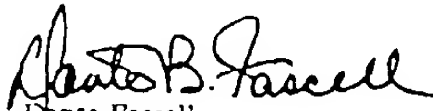
The last point we would like to see addressed is the issue of China's continuing unfair trade practices. We applaud the Administration's action taken earlier this month under Section 301 of the 1974 Trade Act against Chinese import barriers. We urge you to convey to the Chinese government that if it should fail to negotiate easing its barriers against American products, the U.S. Congress is likely to demand the imposition of meaningful sanctions. China's estimated \$12 billion trade surplus with the U.S. this year alone can be attributed in large measure to China's deliberate policy of administratively restricting foreign imports.

We hope you will pursue our concerns vigorously with the Beijing government in advance, and thank you for taking our interests into consideration.

Sincerely,



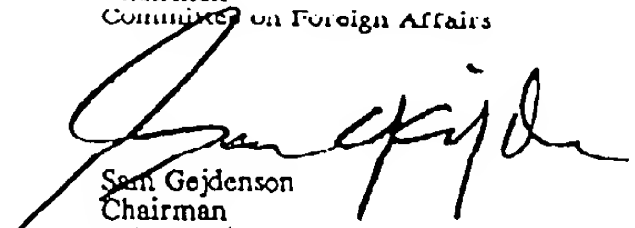
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